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KHADAFY

BY DANIEL G. GILMORE

A former national security adviser to President Reagan urged Wednesday that the U.S. government and CIA give open and covert support to the removal of Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khadafy - not excluding assassination.

Joseph Churba, president of the conservative Center for International Security, told a news conference, "It is clearly time to recognize the Khadafy regime for what it truly is, a malignancy in the international body politic, which should be excised at the source before its spread becomes uncontrollable."

The center describes itself as a non-profit, non-partisan organization that "brings together economists and historians, former diplomats and senior military officers, executives and political scientists deeply concerned with matters affecting national security."

Churba said, "Libya, as we know it today, has gone far beyond the pale of acceptable political behavior by its unparalleled record of open sponsorship of assassination, terrorism, subversion and Marxist revolution."

"It is an outlaw state that cannot be treated within the framework of the accepted norms of international comity," he said. "Accordingly, change in Libya must be brought about by alternate means."

Churba, 50, is a former senior U.S. Air Force intelligence adviser on the Middle East, former adviser on national security affairs to Reagan during his presidential campaign, and former senior policy adviser to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency until his resignation last year over policy issues.

He said the administration has not been firm enough in combatting hostile regimes and "going to the source" of Soviet-inspired actions.

Asked if he meant that the CIA should go in and kill Khadafy, Churba replied:

"I would leave it to the Libyan people," but the CIA could use "covert and overt means" to encourage such an action by fostering subversion and unrest in Libya and recruiting anti-Khadafy Libyans both inside and outside the north African nation.

"I don't think this is adventurism," he said. "I believe the American people have had their fill of Khadafy, (Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini and (Cuban leader Fidel) Castro."

All should be toppled, he said, to start the erosion at the source of what he said was Soviet-inspired terrorism and expansionism.

Churba was asked to detail how the CIA, which has been prohibited from engaging in assassination, could legally participate in a plot against Khadafy.

"It is the duty of the CIA to seek out people" who oppose regimes that pose a national security threat to the United States, he said. "We should encourage the process for liberating these countries."

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